

# White House Parley Takes In Missile Work

Missiles and earth satellites came under discussion at the White House again today as President Eisenhower met with 14 members of his Science Advisory Committee.

These subjects have been discussed almost continuously by the President and his principal advisers since Soviet Russia launched its Sputnik satellite October 4.

As the meeting began White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty told newsmen he did not expect there would be any statement from either the White House or the scientists following the conference.

With Mr. Eisenhower in the meeting were Brig. Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster, White House staff secretary, and Robert Cutler, special assistant to the President for National Security Council affairs.

## Meeting Lasts 45 Minutes

The meeting lasted 45 minutes. As the scientists left the White House Dr. Isador Rabi of Columbia University told newsmen it would not be appropriate for them to make any comment because "this was a privileged discussion."

In announcing today's meeting, Mr. Hagerty said it was set up before the Soviets launched their "moon." He said the committee goes to the White House once or twice a year to report.

Nevertheless, it was made clear that this group which operates under the Office of Defense Mobilization, was to explore the satellite and missile developments in talking with the President.

## Members Listed

Members listed as attending are Dr. Rabi, Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner, president of Associated Universities; Dr. Hans A. Bethe, physicist at Cornell University; Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences.

Also, Dr. James B. Fisk, executive vice president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories; Dr. Caryl P. Haskins, president of the Carnegie Institution; Dr. Albert G. Hill, technical director of the Institute for Defense Analysis; Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. Edwin H. Land, president of the Polaroid Corp.

Also, Dr. Herbert Schoville, Jr., Central Intelligence Agency scientist; Dr. Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation; Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner, head of the M. I. T. Electronics Laboratories; Dr.

David B. Beckler, director of the committee.

Russia's rocket-satellite and its fellow traveler, Sputnik, today were the objects of conflicting reports as they spun around the earth, the Associated Press reported. Their orbits still baffled astronomers and confounded the electronic brains of giant computers.

The rocket was sighted in Cambridge, Mass., at 6:04 EDT this morning, sweeping from northwest to southeast above watchers at the Harvard Observatory and its adjacent Smithsonian Astrophysical Laboratory. The laboratory is headquarters for the moonwatch organized to follow this country's earth satellites when they are launched.

## Lack Substantial Reports

The scientists said that during the forenoon substantial reports were lacking that the satellite itself had been sighted.

Predicting that the pair of celestial objects would pass 100 miles northeast of New York City at 6:03 EDT tomorrow morning, the observers prepared for another early arrival, or the Soviet visitors have been arriving consistently two to three minutes ahead of predictions during the past four days.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek said the satellite seems to be maintaining a height of about 275 miles at 40 degrees north latitude. Its orbit varies between a minimum of 150 and a maximum of about 350 miles from the earth's surface as it circles the globe every 98 minutes.

Dr. Hynek, associate director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, appealed to amateur and professional photographers to forward any good pictures of the rocket or satellite to the observatory to enable astronomers to pinpoint the orbit more accurately.

## Seek Starry Background

Photographers should try to picture the rocket against a background of stars and be able to give their own position and the exact time they snapped the picture.

A watcher in Springfield, Vt., reported an "object" passed 15 seconds after the rocket this morning. Another report from State College, Pa., said the rocket was sighted at 6:04 a.m. E.D.T., but that the satellite followed a full 22 minutes later.

This would mean it was trailing the rocket by approximately 6,600 miles. Observatory officials agreed this report needed further investigation.

Several visual sightings tended to bolster reports that the rocket might actually be in two sections.

The orbit of Sputnik and its much brighter third-stage rocket for release 200430089-2

**Slowdown Indicated**  
Smithsonian observers felt it was "too early" to speculate what force was causing the satellite to baffle predictions.

Visual observations of Moonwatch teams and others throughout the world indicate that the daily shift, or precession, in Sputnik's orbit is actually slower by as much as 50 per cent than the rate the electronic brains predict.

Dr. Hynek said last night an "unknown force" has been acting on Sputnik in a "very puzzling" way.

Some force other than gravity is preventing electronic computers from accurately calculating the "moon's" orbit, he

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